

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Chesaw Wildlife Area Thinning Project

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Scotch Creek Wildlife Area
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Bryan Dupont, 1514 Conconully Hwy Okanogan, WA 98840 509-826-4430

4. Date checklist prepared: 1/25/2011
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Work will begin approximately November 1st, 2011 thru March 15th, 2012 there will be no phasing of the project. Timeline will be dependent on weather, work schedules and permitting.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. Yes the Following:
 - A. Site preparation: timber harvesting operations will be conducted with ground based equipment. Trees will be cut to length on site with limbs and tops left on site to help stabilize soils and reduce runoff. Normal ground disturbance from

tractor yarding will occur however equipment will drive over limbs and tree tops to minimize ground disturbance. Logging slash at landings will be piled and burned.

- B. Vegetation Management: Disturbed road surfaces associated with roads, landings and skid trails in the harvest area will be seeded with native species to reduce erosion, provide soil stability and increase winter browse.
- C. Roads: Road assessments will be conducted annually and may include periodic ditch and culvert cleanout, and road grading as needed to minimize erosion.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- 1. WDFW Priority Species and Habitat Management Recommendations
- 2. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) TRAX (Threatened, Rare and Endangered Species), 1998 and Forest Practices Stream Surveys.
- 3. WDFW Heritage Database.
- 4. State Soil Survey from NRCS.
- 5. Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Management plan.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. None

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- A. DNR Forest Practice Application
- B. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) for Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, Chesaw Unit.
- C. Cultural resource EZ 1 form
- D. Fish and wildlife Commission Approval
- F. North Okanogan WDFW District Team Approval

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This is a ground based logging operation, consisting of hand felling and the use of feller processors, feller bunchers, self-loading forwarders and tracked or rubber tired skidders, to selectively thin 360 acres of forest lands within the WDFW Chesaw Unit. The primary goal is to improve forest health and improve habitat conditions for wildlife.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

A. Legal description: The proposal lies within portions of section 7, 8, 17 and 18 Township 40 North, Range 30E

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . .

The terrain is generally mountainous with rock outcroppings, steep slopes and flat benches.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? 60% however thinning will only occur on slopes accessible to equipment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
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- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. The project area is composed of Nivine silt loam, Koepke silt loam, Hum silt loam and Colville Silt loam. Adjacent lands to the project area have been planted into shrub steppe plant community; however there is no prime farmland.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. None
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. Grading portions of access roads maybe required, but only to improve road surfaces. There will be no new road building. Main haul roads will be brought up to Forest Practice Standards.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. Erosion is possible on and around landings and skid trails. Diversions and water bars will be installed after harvest and the landings seeded with native vegetation to help prevent erosion.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? 0%
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: WDFW plans to use rubber tired or tracked equipment. Limbs and tops will be left on site to help stabilize soils and reduce erosion. Winter logging will be the preferred timing to prevent impacts to soils. Disturbed soils will be seeded with native species, as needed.
- a. **Air**
- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? The proposal will involve emissions and dust and from equipment. Such emissions should not result in significant impacts to air quality. There is the potential for wood smoke, due to pile burning, dependent on market values of timber.
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: insure equipment operators have safety mufflers for emission control. If pile burning occurs, piles will be small in size 20ftX10ft, burning will meet department of ecology burn standards.

3. Water**a. Surface:**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. Strawberry Lake is adjacent to the project area and has one outlet into Gafvery Creek; flow is seasonal, in years of high precipitation. The lake is feed by snow melt and run off. There will be no work within the RMZ.
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. Yes, timber removal may occur within 200' of Strawberry Lake where it is required for safety or hazard tree removal. Otherwise, DNR's recommended buffers for Forest Practices will be maintained or exceeded. There are no fish bearing streams within the project area.
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. None
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. No
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. No

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. Ground water should not be significantly changed by this project.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. Spring runoff from snow melt and rain. Water will be channeled through culverts, cross drains, and over water bars.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. Not, likely

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: None

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- X_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 X_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 X_____ shrubs
 X_____ grass
 X_____ pasture
 _____ crop or grain
 _____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 _____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 _____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? Douglas fir, Engleman Spruce, Grand Fir.
Estimated removal 1,5 million board feet.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. None Known

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Reseeding highly disturbed areas with native seed mix.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Yes
 mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Yes
 fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: No

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. Sharp-tail grouse

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. The project area has the potential for Big game winter range, during mild winters, use is unknown
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: This proposal will include snag creation, and the protection of large old growth tree structures.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. Fuel to operate equipment for harvesting, loading and hauling timber and any related road work.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
If so, generally describe. No
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: Does not apply

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?
If so, describe. There is the potential of fuel and fluid spills when working on and refueling equipment

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. None

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: Use fluid catch basins when needed

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. Shot-term noise due to equipment operation during business hours. No long-term noise will be created.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: Maintain proper functioning equipment.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? The unit is managed for wildlife habitat and recreation related activities. There are homes nearby on neighboring private lands; adjoining range is used primarily for cattle grazing.
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. Yes, currently being used for livestock grazing.
- c. Describe any structures on the site. Cattle fence, old buildings
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? No
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? Forest land and state wildlife recreation area
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? Rural, natural forest: Maintain with emphasis on managing habitat for wildlife. Recreational camping, hiking, horseback riding and hunting area.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Does not apply
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. No
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? None
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: None

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: none

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. Does not apply
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: None

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? None
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: None

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? Light from equipment operation, short-term
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? No
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? None
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: None

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Hunting, hiking, horse back riding, bird watching.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. No
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: Recreational opportunities include hunting, hiking, horse back riding, bird watching.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. None Known
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. Old buildings, there should be no impact
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: None

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. There are no public streets or roadways directly serving the worksite. Roads serving the worksite are owned by WDFW and a private land owner.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? No, 20 miles west to Orville Washington.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? None
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). The existing haul roads will need to be graded and brought up to forest practice standards

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. No
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. This proposal should result in no increase in vehicle trips per day upon completion of the timber sale. During the harvest and load hauling, contractors, sale administrators and log truck drivers may exceed 25 vehicles per day. Road use will be restricted during spring break up or when extremely wet conditions exist.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: Traffic signs will be used.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. No
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. None

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. none
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: ON FILE: Bryan Dupont

Date Submitted: January 27, 2011

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise? Emissions production will be caused by the operation of equipment, and will last approximately two months.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: Limit equipment operation, use only when needed.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? Plants and animals should benefit from this project.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: On the ground work will be completed on frozen or snow covered ground to protect soils. Additional habitat enhancements and invasive species control efforts have allocated monies

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? Unlikely the proposal will deplete energy or natural resources

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: None

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? No affect

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: None

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? None

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: None

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? None

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: None

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. None